***Statement***

*Details of the production and profit/losses incurred by Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. since 2001-02*

| Year | Production (in LMT*) | | Pofit (Loss) (after tax) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | DAP | NPK | (Rs. in crore) |
| 2001-02 | 4.49 | 1.52 | -259.43 |
| 2002-03 | 2.78 | 1.05 | -38.91 |
| 2003-04 | 6.18 | 2.71 | -46.04 |
| 2004-05 | 7.33 | 2.88 | -15.08 |
| 2005-06 | 8.73 | 3.86 | 12.10 |
| 2006-07 | 8.22 | 4.86 | 109.28 |

*Lakh Metric Tonne.

NOTES

1. The financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 comprise of a period of 18 months ended 30th September, 2002 and 6 months ended 31st March, 2003 respectively. All other financial years comprise of a period of 12 months ended on 31st March.

**Price rise**

3422. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of foodgrains and almost all essential commodities continue to rise during the last several months and have reached a high level which appears to be lacking rationale;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the price rise in items of common consumption, item-wise indicating comparative details thereof pertaining to the same period in 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004;

(c) whether Government has formulated any strategy to arrest the steep rise in prices of essential commodities and to provide relief to the consumers among the poorer sections in the society, in particular;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): **(a) and (b) Prices have** risen owing to inadequate supplies in relation to **demand, diversion of foodgrain to bio-fuel** and animal feed, production losses due to inclement **wheather conditions in both domestic** and international markets. However domestic **prices of most of essential commodities are** either steady or declined. Only Retail Prices **of Mustard and Vanaspati oil had shown an**

increase, which are now showing a declining trend from the last one month. The retail price situation at Delhi over the different periods in the last four years is indicated below:

| Commodity | Current Price 21.04.2008 | Retail Prices (Rs./Kg.) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 month back 21.03.08 | 3 months back 21.01.08 | 6 months back 21.10.07 | 1 year back 20.04.07 | 2 years back 21.04.06 | 3 years back 21.04.05 | 4 years back 21.04.04 |
| Rice | 18.00 | 18.00 | 17.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 12.00 |
| Wheat | 13.00 | 13.00 | 12.00 | 12.00 | 11.50 | 10.00 | 8.00 | 8.50 |
| Atta | 14.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 11.00 | 9.00 | 9.25 |
| Gram dal | 37.00 | 38.00 | 35.00 | 34.00 | 33.00 | 28.00 | 23.00 | 22.00 |
| Tur dal | 42.00 | 42.00 | 42.00 | 40.00 | 39.00 | 33.50 | 30.00 | 29.00 |
| Sugar | 18.00 | 17.50 | 17.00 | 16.00 | 17.00 | 21.50 | 19.00 | 16.00 |
| Groundnut oil* | 121.00 | 121.00 | 121.00 | 119.00 | 99.00 | 85.00 | 81.00 | 87.00 |
| Mustard Oil* | 73.00 | 82.00 | 68.00 | 62.00 | 56.00 | 49.00 | 51.00 | 54.00 |
| Vanaspati | 73.00 | 79.00 | 65.00 | 60.00 | 56.00 | 48.00 | 51.00 | 55.00 |
| Tea (Loose) | 107.00 | 108.00 | 107.00 | 106.00 | 107.00 | 104.00 | 99.00 | 104.00 |
| Milk @ | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 18.00 | 16.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Potato | 8.00 | 8.50 | 8.00 | 15.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 6.00 |
| Onion | 9.00 | 9.00 | 10.00 | 22.00 | 11.00 | 7.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| Salt (Packed) | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 |

*Refined oil, @ per litre

(c) and (d) Government is aware of increase in prices of essential commodities and has already taken steps to check the increase in prices by taking effective measures such as augmenting domestic supplies of rice, wheat pulses and edible oils through imports at zero/ reduced rates of duty and ban on exports. Government has protected vulnerable sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 242 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 316 lakh tonnes in 2006-07. During the period April-November, 2007, 242.96 lakh tonnes wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 1.7.2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.

(e) Does not arise.

**Plan for food security**

3423. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of strategy evolved/planning drawn by Government for food security by e.g., strengthening buffer stock of wheat and rice, augmenting yields per acre etc., in view of the global forecast about shortage of food in the near future;